Dear All,

Following the success of the events over the last couple of years, we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to this year's Royal Navy Bristol Invitational on 24/25 January. As in previous years the event will be held at HMS Flying Fox, the RNR base on Winterstoke Road, but there will be a change to the format to accommodate a major regional event taking place on the Sunday.

The competition will begin on Saturday 24 Jan at 1000 in the Drill Hall at HMS Flying Fox, with an aim to finish by 1700. There will be at least four pistes set up, and on the Saturday we will be fencing **Foil and Epee only.** The Sunday will begin at 1000 and will run until 1600, during which **Sabre** will be fenced. This should allow everyone to get a lot more fencing time compared to previous years. Please note that if you can only make one day or the other, that is absolutely fine.

The RN Invitationals are a team competition deliberately pitched at intermediates or beginners. All the same teams as last year will be invited, but we have plenty of room for more so if you have any links to other clubs in the area please feel free to pass on this invitation. With the passing of time, we realise some of the email addresses may no longer be valid.

The competition is fenced as teams of 3 per weapon using the rolling 45 scoring system. All 3 weapons will be fenced, i.e. foil, epee, sabre (teams can be mixed in terms of ages and male/female). **We would plead for no doubling up on the Saturday (i.e. one player being in more than one weapon) as it makes the administration very difficult**, but feel free to use reserves and swap fencers in and out the teams. Whilst not imposing any age limit on fencers, do please bear in mind this is a competition largely for adult teams, therefore younger fencers should be able to compete against them. If in doubt do please ask us beforehand.

If there are extra fencers we will quite happily try and combine them as extra teams on the day to ensure everyone gets as much fencing as possible. As a club you can enter a team or teams into any or all of the weapons. It will be run as a pool unique between the teams in that weapon. If team numbers are like the last couple of years, we do not necessarily expect to finish any pool. We will try and select which teams fence which to ensure maximum fencing for each team. We will stick to the finish times for the event. Typically we have managed at least 4/5 matches per team which gives each fencer 12-15 fights.

No entry fee will be charged. Kit rules will not be vigorously enforced (i.e. spare foils by the side of the piste, body wires etc) as long as fencers are safe and protected. We will endeavour to have some spare kit to lend as well (if clubs can assist with this then please do). Refereeing will need to be from amongst those attending, so if you are entering several teams please be prepared to do some refereeing. Also whilst we will set up all pistes prior to the event, we would be grateful if each club attending could bring one piste set (box, 2 spools, wires) so that if we have any equipment problems we can quickly get the piste up and running again.

So hopefully we will have a fun two days, no prizes, but the idea is for everyone to gain some experience of team fencing. Afterwards we will be out for drinks on the Saturday evening and you are all welcome to join us.

We would be grateful for interest from a club to be indicated by 19 January 2015 along with approximate numbers of teams. We will need a firm list of names by the Thursday evening of the 22 Jan, so that we can submit a list of attendees for gate security. If you have any parents, children or friends who wish to come on to the base and watch then please add them to your list. This list is just for security and thus if in doubt as to their attendance put them on the list. It is much easier if they then don't turn up than if they subsequently arrive and are not on the list.

We are happy to finalise the composition of teams when you all turn up on the day of the competition thus allowing you maximum flexibility.

Any questions then do please ask.

All the best,

Scott

S Lewis
Lt RN
Secretary, Royal Navy Fencing